



An E-Update

Prepared by Organizational Results
Missouri Department of Transportation

April 2009

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Research Focuses on Successful Proposals

The March 17 Spring Research Forum in Branson attracted around 60 representatives from public and private research organizations to explore research opportunities within state and federal transportation programs. Program professionals shared tips on how to prepare project proposals and the essentials of successful proposals. The afternoon session focused upon three particularly innovative projects that benefited from collaboration among public and private agencies. The forum Web page is the next best thing to being there.

[Research Forum Page](#)

Citizens Support MoDOT's Transportation Solutions

Results from a recent survey show that most Missourians are very satisfied with local transportation projects. Nearly 93 percent of the respondents were either "very" or "fairly" familiar with the project roadway. The majority of respondents thought the project made the roadway safer (95.4 percent), more convenient (91.2 percent), less congested (82.7 percent), easier to drive (94.2 percent), better marked (92.3 percent), and was the right transportation solution (94.6 percent). Results were virtually unchanged from the previous year's survey. Check out all the responses. [Right Transportation Solution Survey](#)

Safety Study Earns Innovative Researcher Award

Ingrid Potts, Midwest Research Institute, was awarded MoDOT's Innovative Researcher of the Year Award March 17 at the Spring Research Forum in Branson. Her research into the benefit-cost of MoDOT's total striping and delineation program provided quantitative data that will assist agency planners to deliver the best value for every dollar spent. MoDOT began the award in 2008 to recognize implemented research that has provided significant and notable support to its mission, values and Tangible Results. See the happy recipient.

[Research Award Page](#)

Missouri Leads Nation in TowPlow Applications

During winter storms in Missouri, 34 specially trained MoDOT snowplow drivers do the work of at least 68 drivers in 68 trucks. The concept of wider plowing is not new to Missouri. Since 1997, MoDOT has added roughly 500 14-foot plows to improve the efficiency of its snow plow fleet. The TowPlow is yet another tool to help improve that efficiency. The TowPlow is a steerable plow that is pulled behind a tandem axle snowplow truck and is able to swing out to one side, which doubles the plow width of a tandem-axle snowplow truck. Shovel in more information from the summary. [TowPlow Summary](#)

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Mowing Changes Pay Big Returns

Faced with a limited budget for replacement of an aging fleet of tractors, MoDOT's Southwest District decided the time was right to rethink how it mowed its roadsides. By right-sizing the number and types of tractors used, the district has nearly cut its fleet in half. Aggressive scheduling is also getting the job done district-wide in a fraction of the time just prior to busy travel times. You'll want to bag the details on this one. [Mowing Changes Summary](#)

Maintenance Operations Identify Best Practices

The call for doing things better, faster and cheaper has pushed performance in maintenance operations to new heights at MoDOT. Performance measures identify best performers, but the secrets to the success may or may not be known. The solution is a recently implemented best practice process that identifies, communicates and measures best practices along with setting statewide performance expectations. Focus groups of high performers have completed work on identifying best practices in snow plowing and mowing. Additional teams now are working on performance measures and setting expectations. Read about the best of the best in the summaries.

[Snow Plowing BP Summary](#) [Mowing BP Summary](#)

Research Reports Linked to Engineering Policy Guide

Now thanks to a cooperative effort with the Engineering Policy group, you can access MoDOT research documents right in the EPG. This will ensure you have the latest information to guide your decisions and provide you the background information driving some of MoDOT's current engineering policies.

Here's how it works:

If an article within the EPG is related to a research publication, there will be a pink box with the topic name, type of publication and date, and a link to the overall innovation library. For example, if you are looking up information regarding median guard cable in the EPG, section [606.2.1.1 Low-Tension](#) will have a box with a link to a 2006 research summary regarding median guard cable performance in relation to median slope. Links between research reports and the EPG will be updated on a regular basis so check back often!

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